

HCS SB 605 -- HIGHER EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Dixon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 14 to 0.

HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES (Sections 30.750, 173.003, 173.051, 173.236, 173.239, 173.254, 173.260, 173.262, 173.778, and 174.770, RSMo)

This bill updates references to higher education statutes that have been repealed. Several statutes contain references to Sections 173.205 and 173.215, which were repealed in 2007. The bill removes these references and replaces them with references to either Section 173.1102 or Section 173.1104, as appropriate.

EVALUATION AUTHORITY OF TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTIONS & MABEP (Sections 161.097 & 173.005)

Currently, the State Board of Education has authority to establish standards and procedures for the evaluation of teacher training institutions. This bill grants the Coordinating Board for Higher Education joint authority with the State Board of Education with the guidance and approval of the Missouri Advisory Board for Educator Preparation. Current actions regarding state educator certification, assessments, and other measures regarding educator certification done by the State Board must be approved jointly with the Coordinating Board.

This bill establishes the "Missouri Advisory Board for Educator Preparation" (MABEP) within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to advise the State Board of Education and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. MABEP will consist of 14 members, seven members appointed by the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education and seven members appointed by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Commissioner of Higher Education. Requirements for the members are specified in the bill.

MABEP has the following duties and responsibilities: to meet with the two commissioners to discuss policy issues and proposed changes to standards and practices related to educator preparation programs; make recommendations to the two commissioners regarding criteria and procedures for evaluation and approval of educator degree programs and educator preparation programs; facilitate communication amongst educator preparation experts and constituencies; present annually to the State Board of Education and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education; and maintain a

record of deliberations. MABEP must meet at least twice annually. The State Board of Education is prohibited from approving any teacher education program prior to receiving a formal recommendation on that approval from the Coordinating Board. The Coordinating Board for Higher Education has joint approval authority with the State Board of Education for proposed new degree programs offered by state institutions of higher education in the case of educator preparation programs.

"SHOW-ME FUTURE" TUITION PROGRAM (Section 173.1050)

This bill requires the Department of Higher Education and Coordinating Board for Higher Education to consider the creation of a pilot program in at least one public university and one community college to replace the current tuition and fee system. If a pilot program is warranted, the department must submit a proposal to the General Assembly by January 1, 2015, for approval. Students must sign a contract to pay the state or the institution a percentage of the student's adjusted gross income after graduation for a number of years. The program must have a funding source for the first 15 years and a revolving fund for payment deposits. Pilot programs may vary by cost of education, portion of cost paid by the state, and years and percentage rate for payment.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill fixes incorrect references in higher education statutes that need to be updated.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Dixon.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.